

ABSTRACT

The invention is directed to a surge arrester having a middle electrode and at least one outer electrode, in which an electrically conductive spring clip is secured to the middle electrode and exerts a spring power on the outer electrode; in which an electrical component part that is non-conductive at the trigger voltage of the surge arrester and generates heat given a flow of current is arranged between the spring clip and the outer electrode; in which the spring clip lies against an electrically conductive contact element that is secured to a spacer element using a fusible mass and that is spaced from the outer electrode; and in which, when the fusible mass melts, the contact element is pressed against the outer electrode by the spring clip. The trigger mechanism has the advantage that it reacts very quickly and thereby reduces the formation of sparks and the fire hazard as well.